



# **The Holy Eucharist**

*In Epiphanytide*

*during the time  
of Coronavirus*



## Introduction

**Epiphany** is “a time of continuing glory” (Raymond Chapman). The word “Epiphany” means showing forth, a manifestation, a revelation. It is the glory of God in the person of Christ that is revealed, and it was the marginalised and the outsiders, the shepherds and the Gentile wise men who first recognised this glory. The showing forth of Christ’s glory is found in his Baptisms, the first sign at the Wedding in Cana, the beginning of his ministry. It culminates in the great festival of lights at Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and Simeon’s recognition of God’s light shining anew in the darkness of the world.

There are forty days from Christmas to Candlemas, forty days to match the forty days of Lent and the great season of Easter. Our celebration of the birth of Christ, and his glory in the Lord, should lead us, inescapably, to the commemoration of his Passion.

Because of the restrictions imposed for the need of public health, some of us are unable to make this celebration in community: we are denied the comfort and challenge of worshipping God together, and to receiving the physical sustenance of our Communion with Christ in the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. We are required instead to be nurtured by a ‘Spiritual Communion’. This term has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. The form of prayer in this order of service offers Christians an opportunity to give thanks for their communion with him, particularly at times when they would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly ‘eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ’, although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves.

*While all things were in quiet silence, and night was in the midst of her swift course, thine Almighty Word, O Lord, leaped down out of thy royal throne. Alleluia!*

*Christmas Vespers, Western Rite*

# ¶ *The Gathering*

## **The Greeting**

*The president greets the people*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

**All And also with you.**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

*The president introduces the prayers of penitence in these  
or other suitable words*

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call  
to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour  
was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks  
to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star  
to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

*The president says*

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*is said, or sung on Sundays and Festivals*

**All Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## The Collect

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer. The Collect is said, and we all respond*

**All Amen.**

## ¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

*Two readings from Holy Scripture follow. At the end of each the reader says*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Before the Gospel reading, the reader says the Gospel Acclamation and we all respond.*

*Epiphany*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

**All Alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end the reader says*

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Sermon

## The Creed

**All** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

*We SIT or KNEEL. The prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:*

¶ *The Church of Christ*

¶ *Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority*

¶ *The local community*

¶ *Those who suffer*

¶ *The communion of saints*

*These responses may be used*

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*or*

**All** Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*or*

**All** Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

*And at the end*

**All** Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

# ¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

## **The Peace**

*The president introduces the Peace.*

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there shall be no end.

**All** The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us acknowledge one another with a sign of peace.

*We either offer a physical sign of peace to those of our household, or  
acknowledge in our hearts our desire to live in peace with our brothers and  
sisters from whom we are at present physically separated.*

## **Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine**

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
The president takes the bread and wine and says*

Blessed be God,  
by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**All** **Blessed be God for ever.**



# The Eucharistic Prayer

[Prayer A]

The Lord is here.  
**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The president praises God for his mighty acts in these or other words:*

*(From the Epiphany until Candlemas Eve)*

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.  
In the coming of the Magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.  
In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The president recalls the Last Supper, in these or other words*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**All To you be glory and praise for ever.**

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

**All To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**All Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All** **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**All** **Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

## Spiritual Communion

*As the president receives communion, we pray*

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being offered this day, and remembering my own parish and those worshipping within it, I long to give you praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I present to you my body and soul as a living sacrifice, with the earnest wish that I may always be united with you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the strength of my soul and the life you have given me. Let nothing ever separate me from you. May I live and die in your love. Amen.

## Prayer after Communion

*The president says*

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept. The president says the post communion prayer.  
This prayer may also be said.*

**All**    **Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## ¶ *The Dismissal*

### **Blessing**

*The president says this or another blessing.*

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory  
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

*A minister says*

Go in the peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**